

**White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation
Day 2 Breakout Session Compilation**

Topic: Measuring Success of Cooperative Conservation Efforts

Session number: 41

Morning

Facilitator: Kirk Emerson

Location: 241

This summary cannot be more than two pages; allocate space as needed among the categories.

A. Major Repeated Themes Raised in the Discussion. *A grouping of ideas repeated with some frequency in the session and brought up again during the group summation process. Also includes diverging views and/or questions about the topic.*

- Emphasis on how to connect local goals and commitments to national vision and policy
- Importance of flexibility; assure any policy, guidance, programs enable flexibility for local variation and different needs
- Need for interagency and cross-jurisdictional cooperation and consistency with regard to measuring progress and performance and goal-setting (as well as engagement in cooperative conservation projects)
- Understanding and agreement on goals should be followed by criteria to evaluate progress and performance outcomes among all parties
- Monitoring and measuring success require appropriate resources (tools, capacity, funding)
- The sustainability of cooperative conservation efforts can be aided by market approaches
- Permission to play – stretch bureaucratic confines
- Systems theme – assuring conversation on conservation to increase performance
- This is not easy; But it's fun

B. National-level Practical Actions *that could be taken by the Federal government, national NGO's, and other national organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

Setting goals and desired outcomes

- Set national vision for cooperative conservation; assure national goals are clearly defined but general and can be translated at the local level
- Any new laws should be facilitative, not dictatorial and the government's role in specific cooperative efforts should be facilitative

Monitoring and evaluating progress

- Establish key indicators at national level and coordinate across agencies

Measuring success/outcomes

This document represents the views of the individual participants and does not reflect group consensus.

- Federal agencies should be held accountable for achieving conservation results and agencies' staff should be rewarded for successes
- Success takes time and requires appropriate monitoring

C. **Local-level Practical Actions** *that could be taken at the local or community level by Tribes, state and local communities, private citizens, and local organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

Setting goals and desired outcomes

- Local needs should be identified before setting goals
- Assure agreement among all parties on how to evaluate those shared goals
- Align measures for appropriate scale and resources

Monitoring and evaluating progress

- Be sure public sees and understands progress based on monitoring and evaluation
- Public has to trust integrity of data and understand progress
- Monitoring parameters need to be consistent across agencies

Measuring success/outcomes

- Develop indicators for economic benefits, human health and environmental improvement
- Value ecological services to private sector and consider how economic incentives can assist in making cooperative conservation efforts self-perpetuating
- Establish baseline measures at beginning of processes
- Measure impacts outside boundaries of project (avoid leakage); also assess unintended impacts (both positive and negative)

D. **Particularly insightful quotes from participants** that capture the essence of key points made during the group's discussion.

Additional concerns

- Research on how to do cooperative conservation (what works/what doesn't) not organized, not accessible and not in lay terms
- Much too much counting of activities, not results
- Federal government does not have capacity to honor results and products of cooperative conservation efforts (meaning, doesn't then commit to and resource implementation)
- Success is hard to see
- "This is not easy"

Quotes

- Success is in the eye of the beholder
- Partnerships are about people

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